

SARA II QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
October 1 – December 31, 2004

This report covers the first quarter of FY 2005, namely, the period October 1 – December 31, 2004. It follows the SARA FY 04 work plan for the period October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005.

SARA II is a service project. As such, it is responsive to the Africa region's needs, and USAID and REDSO requests channeled through AFR/SD, so additional activities may gain priority from time to time as discussed in the Work Plan. In addition, in this final year of the SARA II Project, various activities in the work plan may be deleted or modified in form to adapt to changing circumstances and opportunities.

Activities as found in the work plan are listed in bold.

SO 19: Adoption of policies and strategies for increased sustainability, quality, efficiency and equity of health services

Technical Area: Child Health

Support to AFR/SD

1. Assist AFR/SD with issues identification, portfolio management & evaluation.

Expected Outputs:

- Issues related to child health identified
- Child Survival Core Group meetings organized

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Core team meetings were held this quarter to review and discuss the 2005 child health section of the work plan.

2. Taking stock of child survival – dissemination strategy development & follow-up.

Expected Outputs:

- Final report submitted to USAID – dissemination strategy developed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The complete final report was submitted this quarter and will be disseminated to missions next quarter. In addition, a presentation was developed, discussed with AFR/SD and presented to the Health Sector Council. It was decided that a short 5-page brochure should be produced to disseminate the findings to a wider non-USAID audience.

3. Link with CORE, HCP, BASICS & WHO to promote the Africa Bureau's priorities for child health.

Expected Outputs:

- AFR's priorities in child health promoted

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA was instrumental in linking with partners to support the community-based case management initiative. See item #4 below.

4. Provide technical input to USAID & WHO on child health issues.

Expected Outputs:

- Sara participation in key meetings
- Advice given on priority issues

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SPH participated in a review of the WHO/AFRO grant proposals to AFR/SD. Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones, SARA Project Director, and Ms. Holley Stewart, SARA Senior Reproductive Health Advisor, provided input into plans for WHO/AFRO formative research on newborns and childbirth practices (USAID-funded research).

Moving the Private Sector Agenda
<p>1. Organize advocacy forum on involving private providers in child health & malaria & follow-up activities.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum organized in Africa • WHO/AFRO takes on capacity development role <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones organized a meeting at the World Bank (WB) to bring new WB partners on board and encourage their support of the Forum. It was decided that a second steering committee meeting should take place in early 2005 to review forum objectives, outcomes, participants and agenda. Carmen Coles and Larry Barat attended the meeting at the WB and will be helping to prepare the steering committee.</p>
<p>2. Collaborate with WHO/Geneva, et al, to develop & disseminate toolkit for including private practitioners in child survival & malaria programs.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toolkit (paper & CD) developed & disseminated <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>SARA acquired more tools to be included on CD-ROM. SARA is still waiting for feedback from AFR/SD and WHO/HQ on the main toolkit paper.</p>
Moving the Community Child Health Agenda
<p>1. Participate in inter-agency meetings on community health & follow up on actions needed to support scale -up.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SARA participation in meetings • Follow-up on key activities identified <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>See Support to AFR/SD, items #3 and 4 above, and item #4 below.</p>
<p>2. Collaborate with partners to explore the role of NGO networks in the scale -up of child health programs.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO networks strengthened in selected countries <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>3. Support the inclusion of AIDS-related issues in child health programs (see HIV/AIDS section).</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practices identified & disseminated <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Agnieszka Sykes, SARA HIV/AIDS Advisor, organized a brown bag on the Hearth Nutrition Model, which included her presentation on the experiences of scaling up the hearth in Guinea. One topic discussed was the relationship between HIV/AIDS and child nutrition in the context of hearth.</p> <p>She was also invited to participate in a Hearth Nutrition TAG meeting, organized by the CORE group, where participants discussed adapting the Hearth guide to high HIV/AIDS prevalence countries. A small group, which Ms. Sykes joined, was identified to continue further brainstorming on this issue. (also, see SO 21, Pediatric HIV/AIDS</p>

4. Support for regional initiative for community-based case management (ARI, malaria, etc.).

Expected Outputs:

- Support provided as needed

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones worked with Dr. Adama Kone, AWARE-RH Child Survival Advisor, to develop a concept paper to promote case management of childhood illness in the community in Francophone West Africa, using ARI as an entry point. This may include replication / taking lessons from the BASICS Senegal experience, and will also address community management of malaria and diarrhea. Links were made with BASICS HQ, WHO/AFRO & HQ, WAHO, UNICEF Regional West Africa office, Save the Children and CORE to move this agenda forward. A small consultative meeting of interested parties is planned for early 2005 in Senegal to allow partners to visit the Senegal experience and come to a consensus on the way forward, possibly involving 46 countries (NGOs, district and national health authorities).

SO 19 : Adoption of policies and strategies for increased sustainability, quality, efficiency and equity of health services.

Technical Area: Malaria RP

<p>1. Follow-up TA for the implementation of the Regional Integrated Vector Management (IVM) Partnership meeting recommendations.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA provided by SARA staff <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>2. Support for initiatives on the prevention of malaria in pregnancy in Africa.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working group meetings held • Review of MIP policies & guidelines in ECSA conducted • Advocacy briefs developed & disseminated • Malaria & pregnancy brochure & press kit updated, produced & disseminated <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>3. Technical support for the implementation of the CORE Group malaria & IMCI work plan for FY 05.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA provided by SARA staff and consultant • Staff of SARA & partner institutions participated in key meetings • Electronic exchanges organized <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Dr. Sambe Duale, SARA Infectious Diseases Advisor, participated in one conference call of the CORE Malaria Working Group to discuss the CORE 2005 malaria work plan.</p>
<p>4. Technical support for malaria activities of selected African institutions and networks (e.g., CRHCS, WAHO, MRTC, WHO/AFRO, RCQHC, ICIPE, ECSACON, RAOPAG).</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA provided by SARA staff & consultant • Staff of partner institutions participated in key meetings • Electronic exchanges organized <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>SARA staff reviewed and commented on the draft report of the ECSA-HC assessment of MIP policy guidelines and program interventions in member countries. The findings of the MIP study were presented at the Conference of Health Ministers in November. An abstract was also prepared and submitted for the Global Health Council 2005 Annual Conference.</p>

5. Support a WAHO consultative meeting to identify strategic approaches to the promotion of ITNs for malaria prevention & control in West Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided by SARA & consultants
- Workshop organized
- Report & advocacy materials prepared & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

6. Provide support to the design of advocacy materials on taxes & tariffs on ITNs.

Expected Outputs:

- SARA support provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Suzanne Prysor-Jones worked with the NetMark team and consultants to debrief on the taxes and tariffs advocacy meeting held in South Africa in November using a computer modeling tool.

SO 19 : Adoption of policies and strategies for increased sustainability, quality, efficiency and equity of health services.

Technical Area: Tuberculosis

1. Dissemination findings of the Women and TB study in Tanzania.

Expected Outputs:

- Development, production & dissemination of briefs & advocacy materials

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The printed final report of the study was produced this quarter, and SARA initiated its dissemination.

Dr. Sambe Duale exchanged e-mails with the principal investigators on their plan to prepare two articles based on study findings for peer review journals.

An abstract was also submitted and accepted for presentation at the Tanzania National AIDS Conference held in December 2004.

2. Support documentation & information sharing on the implementation of CTBC & HIV-TB interventions within TB control programs in African settings.

Expected Outputs:

- Documentation report produced & disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale received and commented on a draft protocol and tools developed by WHO/AFRO for the documentation of best practices in CTBC interventions in Africa. Discussions are still underway between SARA and WHO/AFRO on how to collaborate and best implement this activity.

3. Support for the documentation & dissemination of findings on innovative TB-HIV linked programs.

Expected Outputs:

- Literature review, key informant interviews & site visits conducted
- Advocacy briefs produced & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Not much progress has been made on this activity because of ECSA-HC staff competing priorities. We expect to move ahead next quarter, now that the lead for the activity shifted from Dr. Ominde to Dr. Chebet.

SO 19: Adoption of policies and strategies for increased sustainability, quality, efficiency and equity of health services.

Technical Area: Infectious Diseases

<p>1. Technical support to AFR/SD for the implementation of the ID portfolio activities.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA provided by SARA staff & consultants • Core team & joint partners' meetings supported <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No specific activity this quarter.</p>
<p>2. Dissemination of findings from the documentation of IDSR implementation in Africa.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA provided by SARA staff & consultants • Report & advocacy briefs produced & disseminated <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Country reports and briefs were provided to the WHO/CSR Lyon Team as resource materials to inform the final evaluation of the UNF-funded IDSR Project in Africa.</p>
<p>3. Technical support to WHO/AFRO DDC for the development & implementation of an advocacy & dissemination strategy.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA provided by SARA staff & consultants • Advocacy materials produced & disseminated <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>4. Technical support to WHO/AFRO for strategy development & advocacy for mobilizing resources for IDSR implementation (e.g., training, contingency stocks, etc.).</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA provided by SARA staff & consultants • SARA represented at partners' joint planning meeting strategy • Advocacy materials produced & disseminated <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>WHO/AFRO staff consulted with SARA and USAID on the development of the SOW for this activity. Four potential candidates were put forward by WHO/AFRO for consideration for this activity. Dr. Jennifer Wanyama was selected as the first choice to elaborate the strategic plan for EPR. SARA is waiting for needed documents from Dr. Wanyama and WHO/AFRO to prepare a fixed price purchase order for this activity.</p>
<p>5. WHO/AFRO Annual Meeting of the Task Force on Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SARA & partners represented at meeting • Report prepared & disseminated <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>

6. Technical support to AFR/SD on Epidemic Preparedness & Response & Transition Initiatives.

Expected Outputs:

- Review meetings held
- TA provided for the development & production of activities in this technical area

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale worked with USAID/W and USAID/Monrovia to prepare a workshop for developing a plan for transitioning emergency and relief health activities to more development oriented interventions. Initially scheduled for December 8-11, 2004, the workshop was postponed at USAID/Monrovia's request to February or March 2005.

7. Support the evaluation & dissemination of findings on the implementation of IDSR in selected USAID presence countries (e.g., Tanzania, DRC, Ethiopia).

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided by SARA staff & consultants
- Report & advocacy briefs produced & disseminated

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale reviewed and commented on the draft report of the joint USAID and WHO/AFRO review of the IDSR implementation in Ethiopia. The review was carried out in August 2004 to inform USAID/Ethiopia investment in IDSR.

Dr. Duale also participated in an electronic dialogue between partners supporting IDSR implementation in Tanzania to plan a joint evaluation of IDSR activities. USAID/Tanzania has preferred an in-house review instead of a large evaluation involving multiple partners.

Finally Dr. Duale and Ms. Antonia Wolff, SARA Dissemination and Advocacy Manager, contributed to the review of various drafts of the report of the evaluation of the UNF-funded IDSR projects in Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, Ghana and Southern Sudan. WHO/HQ is currently finalizing the report based on comments of reviewers from SARA, WHO/AFRO and CDC.

8. Provide technical support for the implementation of the IDSR Operational Research Agenda set by the 5th WHO IDSR Task Force.

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided by SARA staff & consultants
- SARA represented at partners' joint planning meeting strategy

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale traveled to Harare, Zimbabwe, December 13-17, 2004, to participate in two working group meetings sponsored by WHO/AFRO on training in Integrated Diseases Surveillance and Response (IDSR) and on the development of a protocol for a cost and cost-effectiveness study of IDSR. A trip report that summarizes meeting deliberations and next steps is available on file.

SO 19: Adoption of policies and strategies for increased sustainability, quality, efficiency and equity of health services

Technical Area: Nutrition

1. Assist AFR/SD SO 19 team in managing the Nutrition Technical Area (including MTCT/nutrition, HIV/AIDS issues).

Expected Outputs:

- Core team meetings held
- SO 19 portfolio reviews conducted
- Expert advice provided

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA helped the Africa Bureau to organize a core group meeting in December 2004 to discuss operations research on food and nutrition issues within HIV/AIDS programs. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated. These minutes included several conclusions and recommendations for next steps. However, the process for implementing these is unclear. The OGAC has announced plans to form a food and nutrition working group and it will be important for that group to take up the recommendations in its work plan. Since SARA is not likely to be a formal/full-time member of this USG working group, the AFR representative may have to take the lead on this issue.

2. Provide technical support to AFR Core Groups, G-PHN & CA partners on nutrition issues in Africa.

Expected Outputs:

- Meetings attended.
- Expert advice/input provided.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA continued to provide technical assistance to FANTA for the development of counseling materials on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS. In October 2004, Ms. Dorcas Lwanga, SARA Nutritionist, traveled to Entebbe, Uganda, as a technical resource person to attend a regional workshop to introduce the counseling material and to help countries adapt the counseling materials on nutrition and HIV/AIDS to the country local context and to develop plans of action for implementation of the counseling materials into existing counseling services for PLWHA. 10 ECSA countries were represented including Uganda, for whom the materials were originally developed, Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This marked the completion of work on this activity.

Ms. Lwanga provided technical assistance to review an assessment tool for another FANTA activity. The tool will be used to assess nutrition and HIV/AIDS training needs of community care and support providers in the ECSA region. The goal is to develop a training manual on nutrition and HIV/AIDS for community care and support providers in the ECSA region. Work on this activity is on-going through the next quarter, including a review of the assessment results and recommendations and developing the content for the training manual based on the assessment.

3. Nutrition Policy Analysis and Advocacy:

- **PROFILES support to countries to enhance understanding of ENA & linkages with HIV/AIDS, RH programs (emphasis on President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief focus countries).**

Expected Outputs:

- Up to 3 countries in the region assisted as needed
 - Mozambique
 - Zambia
 - Rwanda

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

4. Strengthen African partners' capacity for Nutrition:

- **Use of AFR-supported tools & approaches in NGO & pre-service settings in the West Africa region**
- **Technical support to WHO with implementation of West Africa for Capacity Development in Nutrition**
- **Dissemination of promising practices in Africa through regional networks:**
 - **WAHO focal points**
 - **CRHCS nutrition network**
 - **Other nutrition networks (Central Africa).**

Expected Outputs:

- Follow-up on integration of approaches & tools into nutrition program of NGOs in 3 countries & curriculum of 7 countries in West Africa
- TA provided for action plan revision workshop & implementation of action plan
- Support for one regional meeting of WAHO annual nutrition forum, Regional Network for Central Africa & Madagascar
- Dissemination of SARA tools & materials at regional conferences & through focal points networks.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

In November 2004, SARA assisted WAHO with the co-facilitation of a workshop to finalize the revised West Africa action plans on the Africa Nutrition Capacity Development Initiative and the strategic plan for the ECOWAS Nutrition Forum. Ms. Kinday Samba, SARA West Africa Regional Nutrition Advisor, assisted the WAHO Nutrition and Child Survival Advisor, Dr Ismael Thiam, in preparing the final drafts of these two documents which have been submitted to the WAHO Director General for review.

In January 2005, SARA received a formal request to help support a meeting for the nutrition regional network for Central Africa and Madagascar. The meeting will take on the same format as the WAHO annual nutrition forum and the theme for the network will be on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS. No date for the network meeting has been set but the meeting will tentatively take place April-May 2005. SARA will work in collaboration with other organizing CAs and will provide technical assistance on the technical update theme as requested.

SARA prepared a technical presentation on *Anemia in pregnant women: challenges for iron supplementation during pregnancy* upon the request of WAHO for a regional consultation to assess progress in the implementation of integrated strategies for anemia control in West Africa. Ms. Dorcas Lwanga and Ms. Kinday Samba prepared the presentation were unfortunately unable to travel to present it. Dr. Ismael Thiam, WAHO's Nutrition and Child Survival Advisor, made the presentation on their behalf. The meeting was held in Bobo Dioulasso, under the auspices of WAHO, in December 2004, with the participation of country delegations from Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria and Togo. SARA will provide on-going technical support as requested from WAHO.

With support from the HKI Regional Office and HKI Burkina Office, SARA has continued to follow-up on progress in implementing AFR-supported tools and approaches by NGOs. However, integration of the NGO action plans has been slow, particularly in Burkina Faso. The HKI Regional Advisor, Dr Mohamed Ag Bendeck, and the AED Nutrition Advisor at the HKI Regional Office, Dr Serigne Mbaye Diene, have become more involved in supporting on-the-ground follow-up activities, which have been impeded by the close-out of the BASICS WARO office and Ms. Kinday Samba's inability to travel.

SO 19: Adoption of Policies and Strategies for Increased sustainability, Quality, Efficiency, and Equity of Health Services

Technical Area: Maternal Health / Essential Obstetric Care (EOC)

<p>1. Assist AFR/SD Maternal & Newborn Health (MNH) Advisor with managing the MNH results package for SO 19.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core team meetings held • AFR/SD MNH Strategic Framework developed • Annual report completed • Agenda set with AFR/SD priorities included. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>A core team meeting was held in October with AFR/SD-SARA and WHO and AFRO. SARA is coordinating follow-up on the next steps that came out of the meeting. Meanwhile, results indicators are being finalized and the framework is being revised to include actions to reflect repositioning family planning initiative and mitigation of HIV/AIDS.</p>
<p>2. Work with WHO/AFRO & African institutions to expand REDUCE/ALIVE initiative in Africa through capacity development of regional consultants.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased monitoring of advocacy impact • Capacity development demonstrated. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>SARA staff have corresponded with AWARE and AFRO on applications of REDUCE, and held discussions with AFRO during the RH task force meeting in October to revise maternal health advocacy monitoring tool and vet with RH program managers. SARA anticipates more specific progress next quarter.</p>
<p>3. Promote attention / interventions to improve newborn care through use of ALIVE, dissemination of best practices, etc.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BASICS/Senegal experience disseminated / discussed in AFRO & other forums • Funding leveraged for ALIVE. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>See item #5 below.</p>
<p>4. Work with AFRO to build capacity in Africa for formative research on maternal & newborns at community level.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity developed & research planned & conducted. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>SARA has begun coordinating with WHO/AFRO, AFR/SD and AED on the finalization of the concept design for the formative research activity to assess community maternal and newborn health care.</p>

<p>5. Promote attention / interventions to improve newborn care through use of ALIVE, dissemination of best practices, etc.</p> <p>Expected Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BASICS/Senegal experience disseminated / discussed in AFRO & other forums • Funding leveraged for ALIVE <p>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</p> <p>A consultative meeting with MNH stakeholders was held in Washington, DC, to promote greater attention to African MNH issues at the US national level. SARA staff worked with a smaller group (facilitated by GMMB) to identify key actions for increasing attention to African MNH on the Hill.</p>
<p>6. Documentation of Best Practices in MNH by developing a core group of experts in documentation of best practices. [AFRO-led activity].</p> <p>Expected Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core group of experts trained in documenting best practices • Best practices in 10 countries documented • Compilation & dissemination of documented best practices • Documented best practices used to inform program development & implementation at country level. <p>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</p> <p>During the reporting period, SARA and WHO/AFRO jointly agreed on the level of SARA support for this activity.</p>
<p>7. Training of facilitators for the implementation of the Road Map at country level [AFRO-led activity].</p> <p>Expected Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core group of experts / facilitators available to support countries for the development & implementation of country-specific National Road Map • National Road Map that includes situation analysis, plan of action, time frame, budget & indicators for M&E in 12 countries. <p>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</p> <p>SARA's level of support was identified during the period. In addition, SARA worked with ACCESS and AFR/SD on ACCESS' level of support to train facilitators and roll out the Map in two countries.</p>
<p>8. Publication & dissemination of the African Road Map & its implementation guide for improving MNH in Africa [AFRO-led activity].</p> <p>Expected Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Map & its implementation guide available in 3 languages • Dissemination & use of road map by countries <p>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p>
<p>9. Capacity building in advocacy for MNH in Africa [AFRO-led activity].</p> <p>Expected Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modeling of Optimal Birth Spacing Interval integrated into the REDUCE/ALIVE model. <p>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</p> <p>Again, in this activity as well, SARA's support level was identified.</p>

SO 19: Adoption of Policies and Strategies for Increased sustainability, Quality, Efficiency, and Equity of Health Services

Technical Area: Health Reform

1. Identify & disseminate “best practices” for long-term approaches to continuing education in coordination with relevant partners.

Expected Outputs:

- Inter-Agency Working Group established with SARA participation
- Relevant partners & countries that have worked with professional associations identified
- Best practices identified & collected
- Ways of using continuing education as performance incentive, for license renewal, identified

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See item # 8, SO 19, Infectious Diseases, for a related activity.

2. Identify & disseminate “best practices” for developing a critical mass for public health leadership.

Expected Outputs:

- Partners with interest & activities in public health leadership identified
- Best practices of foundations, graduate schools, USAID experience & countries identified
- University networks strengthened in selected countries
- Presentation & dissemination of the Pretoria consultative meeting report at various forums.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale attended the Ministerial Summit on Health Research, held in Mexico City, Mexico, November 16-20, 2004. The Summit, a by-invitation only meeting, was held in conjunction with the 8th annual meeting of the Global Forum for Health Research. The Summit attempted to answer the question: What research is needed to reach the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015? The report of the SARA and COHRED-sponsored Consultative Meeting on Partnerships for Strengthening Public Health Education in Africa was one of the background materials made available to Summit participants at the session on health workforce. A number of copies were also made available to Forum participants at the COHRED booth.

SO 19: Adoption of Policies and Strategies for Increased sustainability, Quality, Efficiency, and Equity of Health Services

Technical Area: Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI)

1. Assist AFR/SD SO 19 EPI team in managing the EPI agenda, especially human resources/capacity development.

Expected Outputs:

- Assistance provided as needed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Dissemination & advocacy activities for EPI using African institutions.

Expected Outputs:

- Publications produced & disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

SO 20: Policies and strategies for increased sustainability and quality of reproductive health services adopted

<p>General – Related to overall SO</p>
<p>1. Assist AFR/SD SO 20 team with managing the RH results packages.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core team meetings held • Results packages completed & periodically updated • Annual report completed • Strategic support & guidance provided to AFR/SD & WHO/AFRO regional RH task force • Agenda set with AFR/SD priorities included • Task force recommendations • Follow-up • PMP updated <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Core meetings were held with a larger group (including the Global Bureau) to further revise the USAID repositioning FP (RFP) operational plan. Among the topics were plans for a RFP conference in Accra in February 2005. There was also a meeting held for all CAs to update AFR/SD on their FY04 results. The SO 20 team drafted the AFR/SD SO 20 annual report and CBJ. Ms. Holley Stewart collected CA plans (wish lists) to assist AFR/SD SO 20 in planning its portfolio for FY05 and 06. She also worked with the AFR/SD SO 20 advisor to identify priorities for funding. Also, this quarter, SARA staff attended AFRO's RH task force meeting and assisted in summarizing and disseminating task force recommendations. Finally, SARA staff worked to harmonize an operational plan with the AFRO RFP framework for action.</p>
<p>2. Guidance to AFR/SD & CA partners on dissemination & advocacy as related to documentation of FP & RH.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance provided as needed. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Ms. Antonia Wolff and Ms. Holley Stewart worked with USAID Global counterparts to formulate a dissemination strategy for USAID's FP/HIV integration guidelines. Ms. Wolff and Ms. Stewart worked with numerous CAs to establish a dissemination strategy for the French PAC report, which was disseminated this quarter.</p>
<p>3. Issue identification & promotion of AFR/SD priorities.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International meetings attended. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Ms. Holley Stewart attended the WHO/AFRO RH task force meeting, which focused this year on the endorsement and implementation of the Road Map.</p>

20.1.1 Addressing the reproductive health (RH) needs of underserved populations (adolescents & men)
<p>1. Support CERPOD to update information on adolescent RH in the region by conducting an in-depth analysis of new DHS data from the region.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up-to-date information on ARH in at least four CERPOD member countries where new DHS & other data is involved • Brochure presenting this new information in an accessible way • Data turned into a PowerPoint presentation to be used at meetings • Regional meeting on ARH in the Sahel & implementation plans for advocacy (April 2005) <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Ms. Holley Stewart reviewed and edited a draft report from CERPOD that discusses DHS analyses of 6 countries and reviews policies and programs since the <i>Plan d'Action</i> of Ouagadougou in 1997. Ms. Stewart revised the graphs, provided additional data analysis, reviewed CERPOD's concept paper and helped identify a consultant to facilitate at a regional forum that will take place April 2005. Ms. Stewart also helped CERPOD begin leveraging technical and financial support for the forum.</p>
<p>2. Provide technical assistance to ECSA Health Community (CRHCS) in the rollout of its RH strategy.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy that outlines the key priority RH areas of focus by CRHCS • Development of materials for repositioning FP • Electronic & print FP repositioning advocacy presentation materials specific to ECSA (link with other partners) • Documentation produced • Regional & national advocacy action plans • Enhanced commitment to mobilize resources to integrate FP in RH programs • Regional approach for monitoring, evaluating advocacy action plan implementation. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>During a visit in Tanzania, Renuka Bery, SARA's former Dissemination and Advocacy Manager, met with ECSA's new information & dissemination advisor and its reproductive health advisor and reviewed ECSA's dissemination strategy. At this point, there is no activity with ECSA's RH portfolio in FY05 planned.</p>
20.1.3 New strategies for incorporating STI/HIV/AIDS into other existing services adopted
<p>Provide support for addressing the integration of FP & HIV/AIDS programs.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review final reports, finalize briefs & dissemination strategy with POLICY • Present findings at fora where appropriate • Work with Global & AFR/SD on dissemination strategy of USAID FP/HIV integration guidelines. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>The SARA publications team translated USAID's guidelines on FP/HIV Integration into French in the last quarter. Some progress has been made in formulating a dissemination strategy. Global Bureau has printed the French version which will be disseminated in the next quarter.</p>

<p>20.1.4 New strategies for empowering women developed</p>
<p>1. Support to FGC initiatives.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate FGC communication & advocacy workshop in Burkina Faso • FGC eradication advocates trained. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>SARA staff met with the coordinator for the advocacy workshop and both reviewed the workshop agenda and discussed potential African co-hosts of workshop. Ms. Holley Stewart then sent the FGC-related materials to the coordinator for inclusion in the participants' package of materials.</p>
<p>2. Support to West African Post-Abortion Care Initiative.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation & publication of post-Dakar 2002 conference report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication & distribution of post-Dakar 2002 PAC reference document in French • Launch of report in West Africa with CEFOREP & Population Council/Senegal • Meeting of PAC focal points during SAGO conference, organized by CEFOREP. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>CEFOREP/SARA held a meeting of PAC focal points on December 16, 2004, during the SAGO conference. Ten countries, IntraHealth, EngenderHealth, Population Council, MSH, Ipas, CAFS and Policy, SAGO, CRESAR and WHO participated. Technical and financial support was leveraged from four partners. Next quarter, SARA and CEFORP will finalize the meeting report and discuss handover of support of the PAC secretariat with AWARE/WARP.</p>
<p>20.2.1 Reproductive health policies / strategies promotion: Strategies to strengthen African regional capacity to plan, manage & implement reproductive health programs developed & promoted</p>
<p>1. Assist Mwangaza Action to augment its regional profile & increase its involvement in social mobilization for RH & MNH issues.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mwangaza activity briefs produced & website launched • Staff trained in data management • Linkages between Mwangaza and other partners • Regional consultative meeting on integration of social mobilization into RH programs. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Three SOWs and budgets were finalized to assist Mwangaza with the development of an interoffice communication system, training and maintenance to create an interactive website, training of data analysis software and with the development of the concept paper for a consultative meeting on the integration of social mobilization into RH programs. SARA expects a subcontract to be processed and started up during next quarter.</p>

2. Support to African regional institutions (AFRO, CEFOREP, CERPOD).

Expected Outputs:

- Continue to participate as a member of AFRO's regional RH task force
- Assist with the development & follow up of task force recommendations
- Coordinate & collaborate with WHO/AFRO on FP, RH, MNH issues/activities
- TA to CEFOREP as sub-regional coordinator of PAC Initiative monitoring
- Guidance to CERPOD as requested to develop or implement RH communication/dissemination strategies

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

As discussed above, Ms. Holley Stewart attended the WHO/AFRO RH task force meeting which focused this year on the endorsement and implementation of the Road Map. SARA staff also reviewed AFRO proposals for FY05 and vetted with ACCESS and AWARE for collaboration on technical and financial support. SARA staff also worked with CEFOREP to leverage funding and develop an agenda for the PAC focal points' meeting. SARA staff also guided CEFOREP in dissemination a strategy for disseminating the meeting report and leveraging support for follow-up of the PAC focal points' meeting.

20.2.2 Innovative advocacy strategies to increase support of expanded reproductive health programs developed & promoted

1. Explore activities to promote & advocate for the repositioning of FP in RH programs.

Expected Outputs:

- Participate in developing a framework for USAID interagency working group to reposition FP
- Participate in working group assembly organized by Advance Africa (October 2004) & regional conference (February 2005)
- Sponsor two facilitators for Youth and Repositioning FP pre-conference event (one for overall facilitation & one for working groups)
- Develop & distribute info packets & advocacy tools

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA staff worked with AFR/SD and the Global Bureau on the RFP operational plan. Attended a USAID and CAs meeting to review a plan and develop advocacy strategies and monitoring and evaluation indicators. SARA also participated in an October meeting for the RFP conference and led a working group on working with faith-based organizations to revitalize family planning programs. Moreover, SARA is sponsoring Mwangaza Action to help facilitate the RFP pre-conference workshop (youth as a critical element in RFP). SARA also assisted AFR/SD in the drafting of its presentation for the pre-conference workshop. Materials on FP and youth RH will be disseminated at the RFP conference in CD-ROM format.

2. Support advocacy & dissemination activities to promote & advocate for the repositioning of FP in RH programs with African institutions.

Expected Outputs:

- Planning of a pre-conference event on youth & repositioning family planning & setting the agenda
- Facilitator(s) of pre-conference event trained
- Participation in pre-conference event & following regional conference.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

These activities had a good start this quarter. Ms. Holley Stewart participated in telecoms and attended a meeting to plan the agenda for the pre-conference event. One or more facilitators will be trained next quarter prior to the conference.

3. Support African institutions to train providers, program managers on the Standard Days Method.

Expected Outputs:

- A cadre of trainers of trainers in SDM in Africa
- Increased advocacy for integration of SDM in FP programs as a method choice.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

20.2.3 Strategies for improved coordination among stakeholders and/or partners for RH programs developed & promoted

Support to Advance Africa to produce & disseminate a strategic mapping manual for RH services.

Expected Outputs:

- Manual developed
- Dissemination strategy developed with Advance Africa & PARTAGE

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

SO 21: Adoption of Cost-effective Strategies to Prevent and Mitigate the Impact of HIV/AIDS

African Institutions/Capacity Building
<p>1. Technical support to CRHCS on key regional HIV/AIDS issues (i.e., health manpower).</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports & briefs on HR prepared & disseminated. • 2 health WF stakeholders meetings held in Kenya & Malawi. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>The reports and 2-page briefs have been finalized. CRHCS is negotiating with the MOH for the scheduling of the Malawi and Kenya key stakeholder workshops to discuss the reports' key findings and appropriate measures to take to address some of the health workforce management challenges.</p>
<p>2. Support to ANECCA.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons learned in pediatric treatment & care collected. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>The research protocol has been drafted by partners (Ghent Group, ANECCA and ART-LINC network) with the intention of documenting HIV/AIDS disease progression in children and the degree of efficacy of HAART in HIV+ children. Ms. Agnieszka Sykes and Dr. Sambe Duale provided feedback to AFR/SD (through consultant Sara Bowsky) on the research protocol. SARA is currently awaiting feedback from REDSO on points for clarification regarding the process and timeline for the research activities.</p>
<p>3. Support NAP+ to follow-up on key activities.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional evaluation & strategic plan follow-up completed. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>NAP+ has submitted a work plan with activities related to mitigating stigma. As SARA II draws to a close, activities are being phased out with NAP+.</p>
<p>4. Strengthen capacity for M&E of HIV/AIDS programs in West Africa.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV/AIDS consultant hired by CERPOD • Situation analysis of M&E needs & gaps conducted • Guidelines & tools disseminated • Workshop on M&E conducted. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>SARA has advised CERPOD to negotiate with AWARE-HIV/AIDS to support this activity.</p>
<p>5. Support collaborative activities with WAHO on regional HIV/AIDS activities (military, ARV pooled procurement).</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA provided for Global Fund applications • TA provided by SARA staff & consultants • Advocacy materials prepared & disseminated. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Dr. Sambe Duale enlisted TA from Dr. Yaya Drabo of JHU/CCP to review a concept paper from WAHO on developing a sub-regional HIV/AIDS communication and advocacy strategy. It is expected that WAHO will use Dr. Drabo's and Dr. Duale's comments to improve the concept paper and decide on next steps.</p>

Pediatric HIV/AIDS

1. Support & strengthen pediatric AIDS activities.

Expected Outputs:

- Please see activity #2 in African Institutions / Capacity Building, above
- Palliative care for children.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Ms. Agnieszka Sykes is working with consultant Sara Bowsky on developing a SOW with a doctor from George Washington University on developing guidelines for palliative care/pain management for children in LDC.

2. Technical assistance to AFR/SD in pediatric HIV/AIDS issues (Sara Bowsky consultancy).

Expected Outputs:

- Trip reports
- Field guidance on scaling up pediatric care & treatment & PMTCT+ in partnership with OHA & OGAC
- Field guidance on home-based care in partnership with OHA & OGAC
- Guidance document on family-centered HIV/AIDS care & support.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Assistance was provided to efforts to strengthen the draft USG Palliative Care Questions and Answers field support document including participation and support to the USG Palliative Care Research working session.

Technical support was provided for the development of the USAID/Mozambique Palliative Home-Based Care Guidance document and review of the USAID/Mozambique OVC guidance document.

A technical review was carried out of the WHO Chronic Care with ARV Therapy document, *Integrated Management of Adolescent and Adult Illness Interim Guidelines for First-Level Facility Health Workers at Health Centre or Outpatient Clinic at District Hospital*.

3. Research & analysis on pediatric HIV & child mortality in Africa: policy projections & analysis.

Expected Outputs:

- Country simulations on estimated pediatric HIV infections & non-HIV-related deaths carried out
- 5-10-page policy brief summarizing findings prepared.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Country Simulations

No progress was made on this AFR-requested analysis this quarter. Further consultation with AFR/SD is needed to chart the way forward to completing this activity. However, a previous activity related to one did make substantial progress. In FY 03-04, SARA worked with LINKAGES on an analysis of HIV infections and non-HIV deaths in different settings characterized by their IMR as a tool for influencing policy decisions related to interventions to prevent postnatal HIV infections while minimizing non-HIV deaths. A paper was drafted and submitted to several journals, but rejected. The paper was substantially revised and resubmitted this quarter to the *Journal of Nutrition*. The paper was accepted with minor modifications. The paper will be resubmitted next quarter.

Orphans & Vulnerable Children
<p>1. Support for OVC program. Expected Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to economic strengthening (ES) for OVC network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action-based research on ES for OVC network ○ Guidance on ES for OVC implementation <p>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions: Conference calls were carried out with 2 working groups (tools review - with CARE/HACI & improved technical capacity - with FHI) from the CYES (Children and Youth Econ. Strengthening) network to move ES for OVC post-workshop agenda forward. Meanwhile, Ms. Agnieszka Sykes has finalized the SOW for the mapping of ES for OVC programs/phase I (with feedback from CYES Network, USAID/AFR/SD and DCOF/USAID) and is in the process of identifying the appropriate consultant.</p>
<p>2. Technical assistance to AFR/SD in OVC issues (Sara Bowsky consultancy). Expected Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field guidance for OVC in partnership with OVC advisor, OHA & OGAC. <p>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions: See above for economic strengthening for OVCs work that she carried out. In addition, assistance was provided to the USAID Office of HIV/AIDS for the review of the National Monitoring and Evaluation OVC Framework. Finally, assistance was provided to the USAID Office of HIV/AIDS OVC APS process.</p>
Nutrition, Infant Feeding & HIV/AIDS
<p>1. HIV care & treatment of children: nutrition & infant feeding activities. Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General technical support to AFR/SD & relevant OGAC working groups (PMTCT, Pediatric HIV, OVC, nutrition/food task force if constituted). • ZVITAMBO research, analysis & dissemination of findings on HIV & infant feeding, growth of children & morbidity/mortality of HIV+ children. • Valid International research on CTC: Community-based approaches to nutrition care of children & families affected by HIV/AIDS. • Infant feeding technical assistance in support of President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief countries, e.g., Development of guidelines & program tools for HIV & infant feeding: completion of generic counseling tools; finalization of guidance on feeding non-breastfed child after 6 months; adaptation of WHO guidance on feeding non-breastfed child after 6 months. <p>Expected Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed feedback provided to OGAC working groups on food, infant feeding & nutrition-related guidelines/guidance & preparation of technical materials, as needed • Participation in country assessment, planning & other technical missions, as needed • 2- papers on ZVITAMBO infant feeding & intervention data published in peer-reviewed journals • Paper on growth of children drafted, submitted for publication • Paper on morbidity/mortality of HIV+ children drafted & submitted for publication • Findings presented at national, regional & international meetings, including the IUNS Nutrition Congress & elsewhere. <p>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions: <u>General support</u> SARA provided technical assistance this quarter for the drafting of operational guidance on food and nutrition in OGAC-</p>

supported HIV programs. Progress had been stalled because the lead person at OGAC was tied up with other things. However, work has continued with this document in January 2005 and we hope that it will accelerate to formal discussions and approvals in 2005.

ZVITAMBO

There was substantial progress on the ZVITAMBO analysis this quarter. Two papers have been accepted for publication. One, in the journal *AIDS*, documents the relationship between early breastfeeding patterns and postnatal HIV transmission and transmission plus death. The other, in the *Journal of Nutrition*, documents the impact of the ZVITAMBO education and counseling program in selected behaviors. Both papers are due out next quarter. A third paper, which reports on the impact of the education and counseling intervention on postnatal HIV transmission among mothers of unknown HIV status, has been written and is currently being reviewed by all secondary authors. We hope to submit it for publication next quarter. Substantial progress was made on the analyses of morbidity and mortality amongst infected and uninfected children last quarter. The mortality paper was drafted but after review by the Senior Statistician at JHU it was determined that a different analytic approach was needed. The statistician will travel to Zimbabwe in January to finalize these approaches as well as the approaches to be taken on the other planned analyses (morbidity, growth) so that progress can be resumed.

Valid/CTC study

Substantial progress was made in the Valid CTC study this quarter. Dr. Ellen Piwoz, SARA Nutrition Advisor, met with Valid staff in Malawi in December to review the study progress. Work on Phase B began in October and contacts were made with all retrospective study participants. Prospective data were also collected for 4 of 11 CTC sites. Uptake of HIV testing for both children and their mothers is unexpectedly high amongst both the retrospective and prospective study cohorts. An interim report will be submitted in January. However, a major concern at this time is the low prevalence of HIV infection amongst CTC children. The study team and SARA will have to revisit the study objectives in light of this, as it significantly reduces the anticipated sample size of HIV-positive children. Highlighted here is the large difference between pediatric HIV prevalence from a community-based program versus a hospital-based program that treats severely malnourished children.

Infant feeding and HIV

WHO counseling tools were finalized and sent to the printers this month. A meeting was held with WHO and UNICEF to get UNICEF's approval to place their logos on all materials. Guidelines on feeding of the non-breastfed child were also finalized, including an annex related to the HIV-exposed (written by SARA/Piwoz with WHO). These will be formally released in 2005.

No support was given this quarter to OGAC on HIV and infant feeding issues. However, LINKAGES consultant Jay Ross traveled to Mozambique to assist with the HIV/infant feeding risk analyses recommended in the report from the Mozambique Assessment visit (from August 2004). USAID/Mozambique plans to incorporate other recommendations from this report in their FY 2005 Country Operational Plan.

2. Nutrition interventions in HIV prevention, treatment & care programs.

Areas:

- Participation in WHO Technical Advisory Group on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS.
- Dissemination of new state-of-the-art (SOTA) documentation on HIV/AIDS & nutrition.
- Development & dissemination tools for implementing nutrition interventions in HIV programs: pre-service training modules; adaptation of existing tools to West Africa context

Expected Outputs:

- Participation in WHO TAG, including meetings & technical reviews, & conference planning sessions
- TA to country presenters
- Participation in regional conference on Nutrition & HIV/AIDS to be held in Southern Africa (April 2005)
- Journal of Nutrition Supplement on Women's Nutrition & HIV/AIDS published (by January 2005)
- Technical report on WAHO Nutrition Forum on HIV/AIDS & nutrition finalized & disseminated (by January 2005)
- Technical presentations to heighten awareness & understanding of issues given to USG, USAID & other partners

- Pre-service training module on nutrition & HIV/AIDS finalized
- Up to 3 tools for integrating nutrition into HIV/AIDS programs adapted to West African context (details in consultation with WAHO & West Africa Regional Project)

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

WHO TAG

AED hosted a meeting of the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS in November 2004. The purpose of the meeting was to review the status of the SOTA review on nutrition and HIV/AIDS and plan for the April 2005 consultation on the same to be held in Durban, South Africa. A draft agenda was developed. Dr. Ellen Piwoz was nominated to a 2-year term as Co-Chair of the TAG for WHO. The major concerns at this time are: 1) insufficient funding for the April meeting (though we are getting close); 2) slow progress on some of the technical chapters in the SOTA paper; and 3) need to meet as a small group to finalize all aspects of the technical program, particularly the guidelines for group work and the procedures for nominating meeting participants. Now that Dr. Piwoz is a co-chair of the TAG it will mean that she has to spend more time than originally anticipated on TAG activities.

Dissemination of SOTA documentation

The WHO SOTA review is still under preparation.

Technical report on WAHO Nutrition Forum on HIV/AIDS & nutrition

The preparation of the technical report on sessions on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS is in preparation.

Dissemination of Tools for Implementing Nutrition Interventions.

No activities this quarter.

Journal of Nutrition Supplement on Women's Nutrition & HIV/AIDS published

Megan Mermis, SARA Production Associate, created and finalized figures, and formatted the Literature Cited section.

3. Nutrition vulnerability & use of food aid in HIV/AIDS-affected populations.

Areas:

- Enhancing the evidence base for the use of food in HIV programming.

Expected Outputs:

- Protocol for capturing the impact of food aid in HIV programs developed & implemented in up to 4 countries
- Results disseminated in Africa to USG/OGAC & partners
- TA to research in at least two countries (e.g., Mozambique, South Africa)

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

As noted above, SARA assisted AFR with the organization of a core group meeting to discuss operations research activities. A list of next steps to further this agenda was developed but the way forward for implementation of these recommendations is unclear. This requires further discussion. At the country level, SARA provided technical assistance to USAID/Mozambique to design a targeted evaluation of the early breastfeeding cessation and replacement feeding paper that will be submitted with the FY05 COP; SARA also provided TA to ZVITAMBO to develop a concept paper for a similar type of activity in rural Zimbabwe. Both studies would be implemented within ongoing PMTCT programs. In addition, SARA provided support to UWC to design a study on the impact of nutritional supplements (fortified food) on health outcomes of HIV-positive adults in HIV programs in the Western Cape Province. Funding for this evaluation will likely be obtained from the Provincial Health Authorities, although additional TA may be needed to execute and analyze the results.

Multisectoral Initiatives
<p>1. Support to human resource & health systems.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matrix & analysis on HR studies. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Ms. Agnieszka Sykes reviewed HR documents produced by CAs and developed matrix for AFR. This matrix was shared with the USG and as a resource for the review of the PEPFAR COPs. Meanwhile, Ms. Sykes and Ms. Carmen Coles, AED staff consultant working with SARA, are working on the repackaging of Tim Martineau's paper.</p>
<p>2. Impact of morbidity & mortality on cocoa industry in Ghana.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment in Ghana & development of follow-up mitigation supported. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>The protocol and questionnaire have been finalized by BU. Ms. Agnieszka Sykes reviewed these deliverables and provided BU with feedback. In Ghana, the field survey teams have been trained for the data collection phase.</p>
Care & Support
<p>1. Nurses' experience with complete prescriptive authority.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent experience of changing prescription authority policy to allow nurses to prescribe medication in Uganda documented <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Discussions (through Sara Bowsky) have been held with the Hospice Africa Uganda on the possibility of documenting the experience of policy reform in Uganda which expanded prescribing privileges to nurses.</p>
<p>2. Male involvement in home-based care (HBC).</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience of male involvement in HBC for HIV/AIDS documented. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Ms. Agnieszka Sykes and Ms. Antonia Wolff have met with Africare staff to discuss the possibility of documenting their experiences in Zimbabwe with male involvement with HBC. Africare's publication on their experiences with HBC has been reviewed by SARA staff and discussions will be held with AFR/SD on how to repackage and disseminate this publication.</p>
Dissemination and Advocacy Support to SO 21
<p>1. Produce and disseminate key documents.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents produced and disseminated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. BMS guidance ii. OVC SOTA review iii. Food, nutrition & HIV guidelines iv. Repackage of health workforce impacts (from Malawi & Kenya) v. Update & repackage Impact of AIDS on Health Sector report vi. Translation, printing & dissemination of stigma toolkit into French vii. Documents on good practices for pediatric AIDS counseling & testing viii. Document on good practices for treatment adherence in children ix. Implementation guidelines on basic care package for children & how to integrate HIV into child health programs

- x. Guidance on ES for OVC implementation
- xi. Guidance for OVC program implementation
- xii. Final report on lessons learned on OVC & care
- xiii. Guidance on complementary feeding options (for HIV+ women)
- xiv. Guidance on integrating HIV activities into food programs
- xv. GVS BCC & AIDS training curriculum in French.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See Cross-Cutting: Dissemination and Advocacy, below, for progress on various publications. For others, there has been no activity this quarter.

SO 24: **Polio**

Technical Area: **Polio**

1. Assist AFR/SD in the implementation of their SO 24 portfolio.

Expected Outputs:

- Assistance provided as needed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

2. Continue assisting WHO/AFRO on dissemination and advocacy.

Expected Outputs:

- Assistance provided as needed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

See Infectious Disease section.

SO: **Cross-cutting**

Technical Area: **Various areas – Monitoring and Evaluation Activities**

1. Assist AFR/SD/HRD SO 19, 20 and 21 with issues identification, portfolio management and evaluation.

Expected Outputs:

- Core group meetings organized
- Joint meetings with partners conducted
- Expert advice provided
- Monitoring & evaluation activities carried out
- Technical briefs produced as requested.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA staff finalized, produced and disseminated the Joint USAID and DFID Review of WHO/AFRO Grants for Disease Control and Reproductive Health for the period 1999-2003. In addition, SARA staff contributed to the final external evaluation of the SARA II Project. SARA staff prepared written materials and attended meetings with the evaluators and AFR/SD staff as part of the evaluation process.

2. Support for the implementation of strategic & institutional development plans of WAHO & CERPOD.

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided to WAHO and CERPOD.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Dr. Sambe Duale used the opportunity of Dr. Kabba Joiner, Director General of WAHO, being in Washington in October 2004 for the Repositioning FP meeting to arrange for a consultation with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Office of Global Affairs (OGA/NIAID) of the National Institutes of Health. WAHO has recently organized a sub-regional workshop for Directors of Health Research Centers and Institutes of the ECOWAS member countries to take stock and discuss ways to promote a culture of research in West Africa to address diseases of public health importance, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and meningitis. An in-house analysis of NIH-funded activities in Africa has found a large concentration in East and Southern Africa. Both OGA/NIAID and WAHO would like to explore ways to promote the building of research capacity in West Africa based on lessons learned from the Malaria Research and Training Center in Bamako. A representative of OGA/NIAID was invited.

See also SO 21 HIV/AIDS, item # 5, African Institutions/Capacity Building, above.

3. Technical analysis & expert support for USAID West Africa Regional Program (WARP) and REDSO/ESA.

Expected Outputs:

- TA provided to WARP and REDSO/ESA.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

SO: Cross-cutting

Technical Area: Dissemination and advocacy

Result ia: Capacity to Advocate & Disseminate Information

1. Identify key issues for which to advocate: examples; repositioning FP, private practitioners.

Expected Outputs:

- Issues identified
- Activities implemented
- Materials developed & disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

A key issue this quarter was repositioning FP. In December, Ms. Holley Stewart and Ms. Antonia Wolff attended the Repositioning Family Planning (FP) Cooperating Agencies' Meeting. The objectives of the meeting were to present the USAID draft Repositioning FP in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) Operational Plan for discussion and comment, and to create task force groups and define priority activities. A West African regional meeting is planned for Feb 2005 in Accra, Ghana.

SARA is still in the process of developing a toolkit for countries interested in involving private providers in child health.

SARA translated a HIV/Stigma toolkit that was developed by AED's CHANGE project, WHO and ICRW. The toolkit is currently being edited and is due out sometime in late spring.

2. Advocacy workshop with CERPOD on ARH.

Expected Outputs:

- Advocacy workshop held with SARA input & guidance.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Progress has been made in preparations for this regional forum, which will take place in April 2005. The RH Technical Advisor is working with CERPOD to finalize CERPOD's concept paper and to identify a consultant to facilitate the forum.

3. Work with African institutions to build dissemination capacity: CRHCS, AFRO, CERPOD.

Expected Outputs:

- For CRHCS:
 - Implement aspects of communication strategy
 - Administer CD-ROM questionnaire
 - Conduct workshop with information focal points on roles in community core groups & repackaging
 - Work with PRB & CRHCS to determine next steps for electronic networking
 - Review & advise on policy brief series
- For AFRO: TBD on as needed basis
- For CERPOD: Oversee repackaging of *Jeunes en danger* with RH Advisor.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Last quarter, Ms. Renuka Bery assisted ECSA with the recruitment process for the information coordinator position, which was filled by a highly qualified professional, James Watiti. This quarter, Ms. Bery and Dara Carr from PRB have had regular phone meetings with Mr. Watiti to finalize the work plan and to identify key new activities for the coming year. In addition, Ms. Bery traveled to Arusha to work with Mr. Watiti. Following technical meetings on dissemination and information with each program coordinator, Ms. Bery and Mr. Watiti developed a draft communication strategy which was presented at the 40th Conference of Health Ministers in November. Ms. Bery will continue working with ECSA and help plan the information coordinator's meeting to be held in April 2005.

4. Collaborate with other USAID projects as appropriate.

Expected Outputs:

- Products developed/translated/disseminated on an as needed basis.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

SARA has worked with numerous CAs to obtain tools to compile the private practitioners in child health programs. SARA also worked with Advance Africa to provide them with RH Briefing packets for a regional AWARE Conference that will be held in the next quarter.

5. Develop series of Dissemination Briefs to assist projects & African institutions in developing & carrying out a dissemination strategy.

Expected Outputs:

- Dissemination briefs developed
- Dissemination strategy developed & implemented.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter; however, the SARA Project has hired a consultant (Gayle Gibbons) to assist the publications team in this effort and will begin working on drafting the briefs in the next quarter.

6. Document the lessons learned in the Namibia website activity.

Expected Outputs:

- Information documented & disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

No activity this quarter.

Result iia: Materials Development and Production

7. Design and package information in appropriate formats (books, syntheses, executive summaries, e-notes, policy briefs/brochures, tools).

Expected Outputs:

- Selected information designed and packaged, e.g., PP Toolkit, OVC SOTA report, RH Briefs, HIV/Stigma Toolkit (French), WHO Counseling Tools, Taking Stock documents.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Activities continued to progress this quarter on developing these materials:

- The PP Toolkit is near finalization; however, more tools are being added to the toolkit at this time.
- The OVC SOTA report is being finalized at AFR/SD.
- One RH brief is being reviewed by the SARA Senior RH Advisor, whereas the other is being worked on by the SARA Dissemination and Advocacy Manager.
- The translation of the HIV/Stigma toolkit has been translated and is currently being edited.
- SARA helped develop the WHO Counseling toolkit which will be finalized and disseminated in the next quarter.
- The Taking Stock overview and full report were finalized this quarter and a first set of documents were disseminated. However, more copies have been requested. Therefore, SARA will be printing and disseminating more copies of these reports in the next quarter. SARA will also be developing and distributing a brochure based on this activity.
- The French version of the PAC newsletter is currently being disseminated. Ms. Renuka Bery and Ms. Holley Stewart are serving as co-chairs of the PAC Consortium's communication working group this year.
- Ms. Bery worked closely with Ms. Agnieszka Sykes to repackage the research conducted by ECSA on human resources challenges from the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Kenya and Malawi. They identified consultants to repackage the reports and worked closely with the principle investigators to reconcile some confusing data.

8. Dissemination of key AFR/SD-SARA cross-cutting products per dissemination plan.

Expected Outputs:

- Products disseminated.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

The SARA production team undertook a large dissemination effort after a part-time dissemination associate contacted various organizations to solicit interest in receiving documents.

Meanwhile, SARA continues to disseminate English and French versions of the Advocacy Guide.

9. Assessments of use of AFR/SD-SARA products (3-6 documents): Community Nutrition, MTCT, Private Practitioners (?), HR Crisis (?).

Expected Outputs:

- Use of documents assessed & presentation given.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Work is continuing on assessing the following documents:

- The Health Sector Human Resource Crisis in Africa - An issues paper
- HIV / AIDS and Nutrition - A review of the literature and recommendations for nutritional care and support in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Africa - Practical Guidance for Programs
- Utilizing the Potential of Formal and Informal Private Practitioners in Child Survival: situation analysis and summary of promising interventions
- Best Practices and Lessons Learned for Sustainable Community Nutrition Programming

10. Develop & design FINAL SARA publications & CD compilations.

Expected Outputs:

- Develop format
- Finalize & publish.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Ms. Antonia Wolff and Ms. Renuka Bery contacted a consultant to see her availability to work with the SARA team on developing an end-of-project publications plan. An SOW was drafted and we plan to work more on this in the next quarter.

Result iib: Dissemination Channels
<p>11. Continue to disseminate information electronically.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents publicized on e-lists • Increased number of documents on Internet • Increased number of hits • Quarterly publications list. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>The SARA database has continued to randomly present problems. It is possible that the database will be recreated in MY SQL format, which could make troubleshooting easier, and also make the database more accessible to all members of the SARA project.</p> <p>The quarterly publications list has not yet gone out this quarter. Ms. Antonia Wolff is working with AFR/SD to get this out.</p> <p>In addition, the SARA website averaged about 53,200 hits per month, demonstrating an increase of about 3,000 hits per month compared to last year's stats.</p> <p>Finally, the Multisectoral report continues to generate attention to SARA's website.</p>
<p>12. Develop plan for post-SARA website information.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Website reviewed & updated on periodic basis <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>No activity this quarter; however, discussions have begun to take place regarding the website.</p>
<p>13. Assess use of CD-ROMs in Africa (this also falls under CRHCS in item 3a).</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey at AHILA conference, Malawi • Survey at Health Ministers' Conference, Zimbabwe • Analysis & recommendations report on request. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Dissemination of CD ROMS has proven to be cost effective when compiling large amounts of data. For example, this quarter, SARA staff recorded data from 40 surveys from the AHILA conference and composed a 2-page findings and analysis document.</p>
<p>14. Analyze tracking information on major SARA publications.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information analyzed on request. <p><i>Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:</i></p> <p>Surveys are designed and implemented on an as-needed basis</p> <p>The second batch of assessments is being drafted and finalized. This includes, for example, Best Practices, Malaria and Pregnancy.</p>

Result 3: Dissemination and Advocacy Activities Incorporated into AFR/SD SOs

15. Provide TA to all AFR/SD teams to ensure that RPs have dissemination & advocacy built into activities.

Expected Outputs:

- TA given & dissemination & advocacy activities reviewed.

Progress toward outputs, problems encountered, proposed solutions:

Ms. Renuka Bery and Ms. Antonia Wolff continue to provide technical assistance to the core teams, including HIV/AIDS, RH and Child Survival. In addition, Ms. Wolff provided USAID/G assistance on developing a dissemination strategy for the FP/HIV Integration guidelines.